

## Culture Heritage

The culture of a people, a nation, or a community refers to their social concepts, religious beliefs, skills and moral values. In short, culture means the way a people live, think and behave. It includes their food habits, clothes, language, rituals and religion. It also tells about their institutions and organizations related to the education and training of people for the future course of their lives .

The Sikh culture flows from the principle of the Fatherhood of God and the oneness of humanity , irrespective of the language and social values of the people. It requires a Sikh to treat all persons equally and "see" the reflection of God in every human being.

Accordingly, a life within the family , earning honestly , sharing earnings with the needy and wishing well for all humanity , is rated superior to a life of renunciation and meditation in the forest. Sikhism subscribes to the ethos of sewa (voluntary service), simran (love of God) and equality .

This institution of the Khalsa entails a certain additional disciplinary outfit in the shape of forms and vows, which are often misunderstood. It is true that if religion were only a matter of individual concern, there would be no need of forms and ceremonies. But religion, as taught by the Gurus, is a force that not only enables individuals to be disciplined but also binds them together to work for nobility in the world.. Discipline keeps up the spirit of individuals against relaxation in times of trial and maintains their loyalty to the cause even in moments of ebb. This discipline, or what is called esprit de corps, is secured by such devices as flags, drills and uniforms in armies, and certain forms and ceremonies in religion. Uniformity is an essential part of them. They create the necessary enthusiasm by appealing to imagination and sentiment, and work for it in moments of depression. They are a real aid to religion, which is essentially a thing of sentiment.

These forms should be related to his inner belief as words are to their meaning. Forms are the art of  
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religion. Like Art in relation to Nature, these forms impose certain limitations on the ideal, but at the same

time they make the ideal more real and workable for general use.